2:Sanders E-5 (no date) 1949 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

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Rila Monastery, sacred to Bulgarians for six centuries

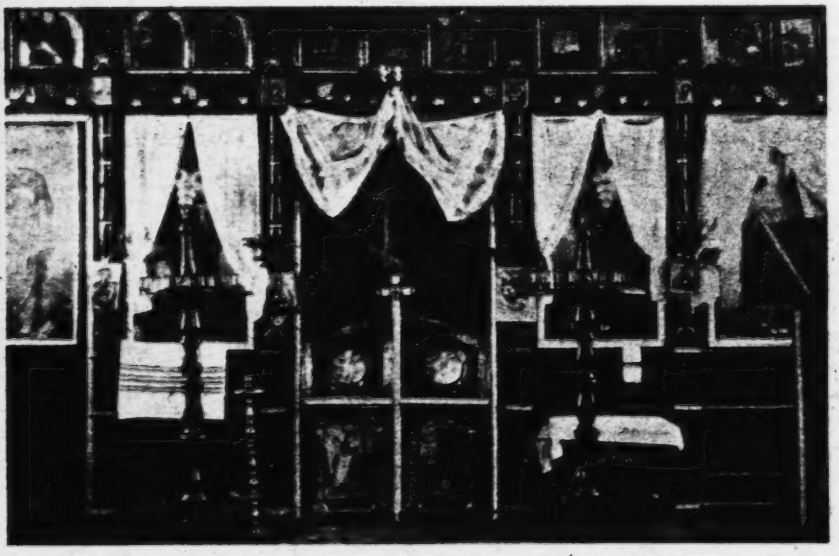
[- Frontispiece -]

2: Sanders E-5 (no date) 1949 EEl Bulgaria EEl

596

"The family is the productive, distributive, and consumptive unit . . ."
See page 144.

346



". . . religion . . . has become rigidly institutionalized." (The altar of the church). *See page 145.*

[Facing p. 144]

Il: Logio S-4 (no date) 1936 EEl Bulgaria EEl

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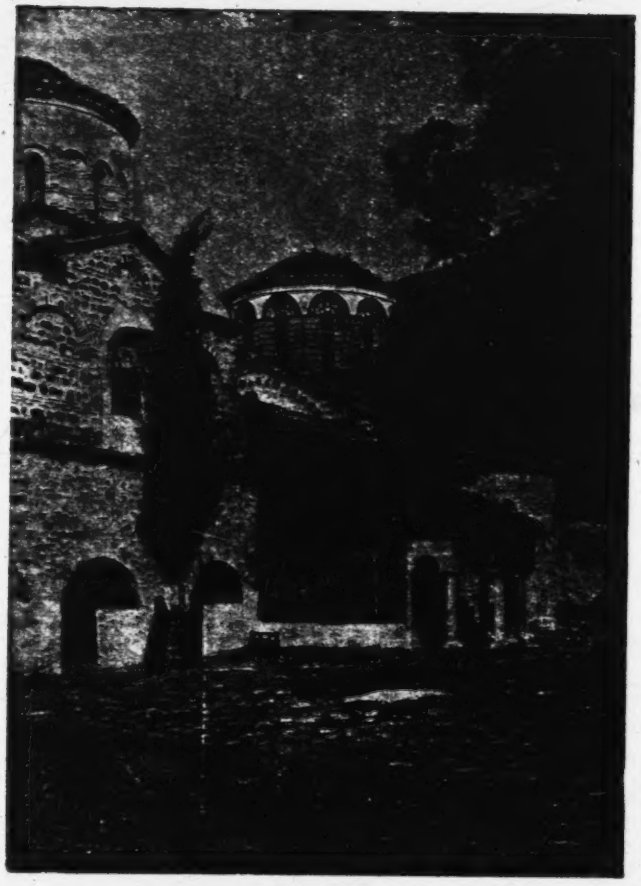

THE BATCHKOVO MONASTERY

[facing p. 35]

11: Logio S-4 (no date) 1936 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

133 to the tourist.[1] The Rila mountains with their numerous lakes, Alpine scenery, extensive pine forests, beautiful valleys, and crystal streams, constitute a perennial source of attraction. The famous Rila monastery which is reached 346 by a narrow gauge railway from Dupnitsa, as well as by road from Sofia accessible to motor cars, extends its large hospitality to all visitors and may serve as a hostelry for those intent on indulging in the healthy joys of mountaineering. The monastery deserves a visit by itself; its imposing pile crowned with its domes and cupolas and its battlemented tower, all encased and dominated by a ring of forest clad mountains, leaves a lasting impression of calm and repose on the visitor. The great gate of the monastery leads into a vast pentagonal yard in the midst of which is the church brilliantly decorated with frescoes and stone-work and endowed with a magnificent ikonostasis. By the side of the church is the five storied stern old tower, that constitutes the only remaining relic of the original structure of the monastery built in 1335. The immense yard is surrounded by a number of galleries, giving access to the cells of the monks which now usually serve as lodgings for visitors. These galleries rise in tiers, forming a series of picturesque arcades overhanging the yard with its numerous fountains which fill the air with their endless murmur of running water, all vying to dominate the roar of the swift-flowing stream traversing the mountain gorge in which the monastery is built, and which supplies the enraptured traveller at the rustic restaurant kept purposely for his behalf, with a dish of succulent mountain-trout, such as would have relished even Lucullus himself.

133 To the south of the Rila range rise the Pirrin Mountains and further east the Rhodopes. The little town

[1] An excellent and profusely illustrated guide-book in English, may be obtained free of charge from the Tourist Bureau of the Bulgarian State Railways in Sofia.

li: Logio S-4 (no date) 1936 EEl Bulgaria EEl

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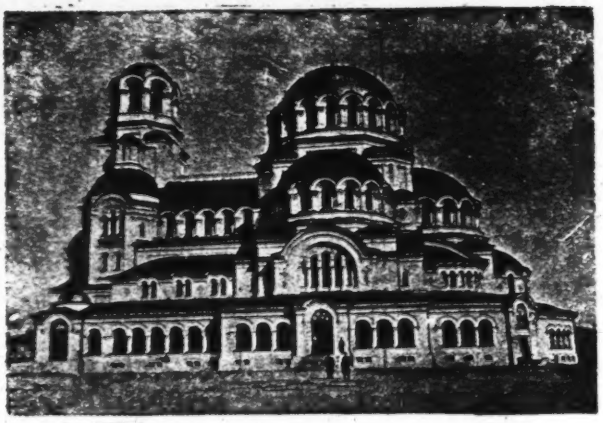

SOFIA: THE ALEX. NEVSKI CHURCH

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A GROUP OF PEASANTS

[facing p. 97]

Il: Logio S-4 (no date) 1936 EEl Bulgaria EEl

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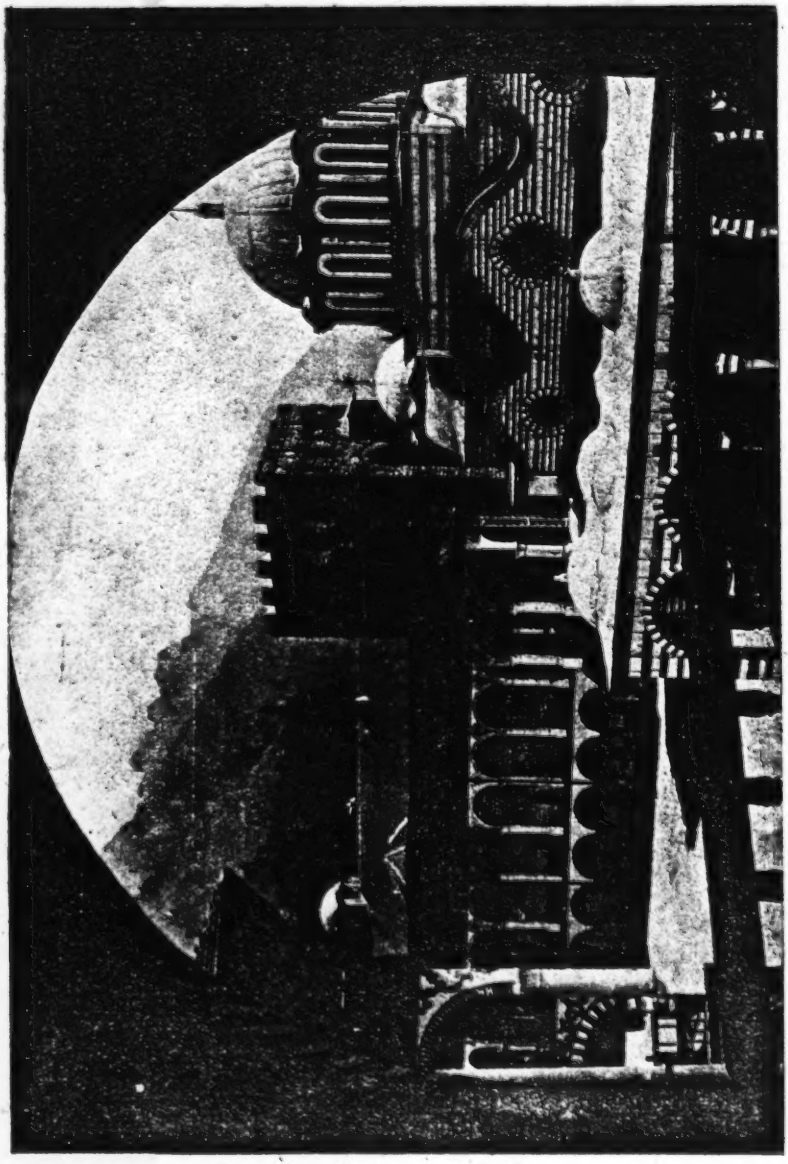

THE RILA MONASTERY

[Facing p. 145]